

TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT BOARD

Friday, October 22, 2004
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
Puget Sound Regional Council
Conference Room
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 510
Seattle, Washington

- Minutes -

The meeting was called to order by Chair Doug Hurley at approximately 9:15 a.m. Members present were: Hegstrom, Hurley, Noguchi, Perteet and Yates. Members absent were: Ericksen, Haugen, Horn, Ostrowski, Pyles and Romero.

1. Report of the Chair

- a. Minutes - The minutes of the September 10, 2004 TPAB meeting were approved.
- b. Treasurer's Report - Nate Naismith, LTC staff, presented the Treasurer's Report.
- c. Assignment of members to projects - Mr. Naismith provided members with a list displaying various studies and reviews coming up for review by the TPAB, along with names of members who have agreed to review each study and provide recommendations to the board.

2. Highways & Ferries Performance Measure Review Preliminary Report

Mr. Naismith pointed out that due to the size of the preliminary report, the board was not able to have hard-copies available for interested persons. He did note, however, that it is available online at: http://ltc.leg.wa.gov/tpab/tpab_audits.htm.

David Rose, Project Manager, Dye Management Group, introduced himself and Peter Mills of Dye Management.

Mr. Rose indicated that the Executive Summary of the preliminary report would be used as the basis for his presentation. He explained Dye Management's approach to the project and the criteria they used as their basis to identify reasonable tests for an effective performance measurement framework. This was supplemented by both their firm's internal knowledge and that of a sub-contractor who has done scans of other DOTs. This basis was then used to identify groupings or criteria for effective use of performance measurements.

Mr. Rose indicated that, as far as strengths, the Washington State Department of Transportation has established an effective system of measurement for managing and providing accountability, and it compares well with other state Departments of Transportation. He also provided areas where WSDOT could build on its current department-wide performance measurement system. He then discussed Dye Management's answers to some of the questions TPAB had posed in the RFP for the project.

In conclusion, Mr. Rose presented and responded to questions regarding four recommendations Dye Management proposed in the report. Members suggested that the language related to the information technology recommendation (Recommendation #4) be clarified for easier understanding. They also inquired as to ways the benchmark recommendation (Recommendation #1) could be made more tangible.

3. Break

4. Presentation on Performance Benchmarks, Measures, Current Status, and Resulting Actions

Transportation Commissioner Elmira Forner, WSDOT Secretary Doug MacDonald, and Daniela Bremmer, WSDOT staff, responded to the report, indicating general agreement with many technical aspects of the report. However, they also pointed out areas in the report that they felt certain elements were missed and should be reviewed prior to finalization of the report.

For WSDOT, these areas included Traffic Operations and Safety. In the Ferry system, WSDOT suggested the report could better articulate a post-I-695 position. WSDOT agreed that the interviews in the equipment area had turned up gaps. Members suggested they would like the final report to include more information regarding the Washington Transportation Plan, particularly with respect to the benchmarks in Recommendation #1. They also indicated they would like to find ways to better operationalize recommendations #1 and #2.

Secretary MacDonald then provided the board with a packet of written materials, including information from the recent Washington Transportation Plan meeting. He provided an overview of the department's current positions and philosophy with regard to the development and use of benchmarks, measures, etc.

5. Other Business and Summarization of Decisions/Next Actions

Nate Naismith indicated that he will be gathering comments/recommendations on the Dye Management Preliminary Report from both TPAB members and WSDOT staff, and will forward those to David Rose for inclusion in the final report.

The next TPAB meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 5, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. - Noon at the Bellevue City Hall in Bellevue, WA.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.